S.N	. NameofStates/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil*
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	2
19.	Punjab	9	4	4*
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	NA
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nfl
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	14
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	2	2*
25.	West Bengal	15	12	12*
26.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nfl
27.	A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nfl	Nfl
29.	Delhi	2	16	8
30.	D&NHaveli	Nil	Nil	NA*
31.	Daman & Diu	—	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshadweep	—	Nil	Nil
	Total	157	94	93

NA —Information not available,

*Information as on 31.3.99

Consultation fee by private doctors

806. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the situation arising out of charging consultation fee by the private doctors Fleecing the patients more than the prescribed rates in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have taken up this issue with the Medical Council of India for regulation of their fee, according to the doctor's qualifications;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The Central Government have not fixed the fee chargeable by the private doctors. However, as per the Code of Medical Ethics prescribed for the doctors, a physician should announce his fee to the patients before rendering services and not after operation or treatment is under way.

Purchase of machines in different hospitals in Delhi

† 807. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of machines bought separately for different hospitals in Delhi for conducting various types of tests during the last five years;

(b) the number of machines out of the said machines lying out of order as on October 31,2001 and since when;

(c) the total amount spent on maintenance and repairs of various types of machines during the last five years; and

(d) by when Government will get these machines repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVLOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strong public health system in the country

808. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the opinion that stronger public health system is the only answer to bio-terrorism; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken for strong public health system in the country?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.